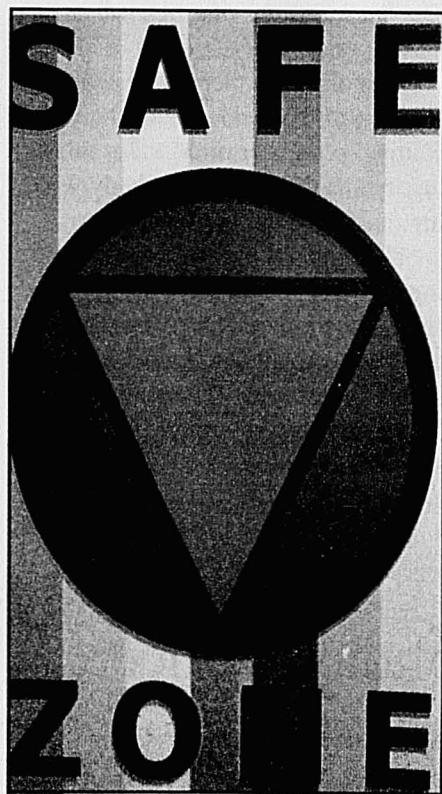


## SODA looks ahead



B. Rechten

The Safe Zone sign is presented to those who complete the Safe Zone awareness program.

**Jake Sanders**  
News Editor

As its second year emerges, SODA, the Sexual Orientation Diversity Alliance, continues its mission to end discrimination and promote a climate of mutual respect for all peoples at the university.

As an organization comprised of students, faculty, and staff, SODA is currently working to promote its Safe Zone awareness program. The Safe Zone awareness program is a small group training session that is intended to increase the safety and visibility of the Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual, and Trans-sexual (LGBT) communities at Avila. Completion of the program allows those involved to promote and encourage safe spaces on campus where LGBT people are welcome. This promotion and encouragement is symbolized in a sign that is given to those who complete the program. The sign identifies allies of the LGBT

community and may be placed on a door or other places that are considered "safe" by program graduates.

"We have about a half dozen student, faculty, and staff who are trained to do the orientations," Lisa Woolery, assistant professor of psychology and president of SODA, said. "We would really like to have some student leaders go through the program. When peers talk to peers there's a special energy there."

As SODA continues to operate on campus, those involved are aware of the difficulty of maintaining SODA as an organization on campus.

"[It takes] continuing interest and people wanting to create a concrete, visible presence that builds a community at Avila, making it a diverse place," Woolery said. "SODA is part of the larger [Avila] community where people are working to create a progressive, accepting, contemporary community, and that kind of community requires continuing work."

"[It requires] energy," Stephen

Maynard Caliendo, assistant professor of political science, said. "Not just of the organizers, but also of people who learn about the group. That's what keeps [those who are already involved] excited as well."

The organization is planning to bring a guest speaker to campus next semester with intentions to have it coincide with Diversity Month.

"We're hoping to bring a guest on campus to speak about her research with LGBT issues, including issues of violence and LGBT youth," Woolery said.

Caliendo and Woolery both identified SODA's chief obstacle as funding. SODA is not technically a student organization, and therefore, does not receive any funding from the school. SODA sponsored events in the past have been funded out of pocket and with assistance from other organizations on campus.

See 'SODA' p2

## Magazine is called into question

**Josh Nolen**  
Staff Writer

The Hooley-Bundschu library is getting criticism over the contents of "Conscience" magazine, a publication the library subscribes to. In a recent Letter to the Editor, a student said "Conscience" uses the Catholic name to discuss issues that go against the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church. The letter also stated Rome condemned the non-Catholic group "Catholics For A Free Choice" for using the Catholic name to spread their beliefs.

According to Library Associate Mike Brown, the group "Catholics For A Free Choice" publishes "Conscience." The magazine discusses American style values instead of the traditional Roman Catholic beliefs. "Conscience" discusses issues of abortion, death, and the use of contraceptives. The complaint was that

the content of the magazine went against the traditional Roman Catholic teachings.

"I hope having 'Conscience' doesn't discourage Catholics from using the library. Our job is to offer information even if people don't agree with it," Brown said.

"I don't have a problem with the magazine. I am going to continue to come to the library even if material such as this is on the shelves of the library," sophomore Kevin Gray said.

The Avila University library offers more than 370 magazine titles and exercises the right to freedom of speech, allowing students to express their ideas.

The library partners with the various departments on campus when choosing what magazines to order. Most magazine orders are at depart-

mental request, but the library is also considerate of other suggestions.

"The variety of magazines is pretty good in the library. I can do the research I need to help me with my school work," Mary Mancuso, senior, said.

The library offers several magazines associated with the Catholic faith, though religious magazines take up a small portion of the library shelves. Other magazines include mainstream titles such as "Rolling Stone" and "ESPN the Magazine." The library does allow controversial materials to stay on the shelves.

The library only takes a magazine off the shelf if they need space for other magazines and resources or if a person files a complaint to remove the magazine. The staff will not remove a magazine from the shelf without the

submission of a reasonable complaint.

According to Library Director Kathleen Finegan, there is a procedure that the library makes available to persons who want a magazine removed from the shelf. When a person files a complaint to the library director or staff the option is given to have a hearing to decide if the magazine should be removed from the library. If the plaintiff is willing, the hearing takes place and the magazine goes under review. Finally, a decision is made and the magazine is either removed from the library or stays on the shelf.

"The library is neutral when it comes to having a position. We are here to service people in terms of providing information. We celebrate many banned books and offer these materials so students can do their research," Brown said.



# Avila 411

Mock Trial students Tiffany Hamilton and Kim Wilson won awards at the Avila/CMSU Invitational on Nov 22, 2003. Hamilton was recognized as an outstanding attorney and Wilson was recognized as an outstanding witness.

Career Services is seeking student organizations to co-sponsor events during career month. For more information contact Gina Frigault at 501-3764 or frigaults@mail.avila.edu.

Sunday, Dec. 14 a finals mass and breakfast will take place. Mass will be held at the Foyle Chapel at 8 p.m. and Late Night Finals Breakfast will follow from 9 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Student speaker auditions for the Steer Dinner will take place on Feb. 17. The student speaker will present a two to three minute speech about the "Spirit of Avila."

Students can win Melissa Etheridge VIP tickets for Dec. 19. Students must answer "What is the Spirit of Avila?" and send answers to Serena Aernie at aerniesr@mail.avila.edu by Dec. 16. Answers should be original, creative, and sincere.

Crystal Hartford and Stephen Mitsch have been selected to represent Avila in Denver, Colo., at regional competition for theater in January of 2004.

## New registration system undergoes first test

Angie Alford  
Staff Writer

It is Tuesday morning just before 10 a.m. and the hallways are empty in front of the registration office. The sound of silence was never quite so loud in previous years. It is registration week at Avila University and changes to the new registration system have left students speechless.

"I didn't have to wait in line. There was nobody in here when I got here. I rang the bell for assistance, but that was more for choice than necessity. I like this system better because there was no wait," junior Aaron Jackson said.

The new system is on a first come first serve basis. There are still designated days for seniors, juniors, sophomores, and freshmen to register, but now they do not have to take a number and wait.

Another change to the system is that students can have someone else register for them if they cannot do it themselves on that particular day.

They just have to send a permission slip with another student to register them.

Mark Reger, associate dean for academic affairs, says that the new computer system allows Avila to register the students and print out their class schedules all at once so that they can make sure that there aren't any mistakes.

"Students knew right then if they were wait listed and could check their schedules," Reger said.

The new system was set up to make registering more convenient for the students. Senior Anora Smith did not have much luck getting registered conveniently but was still happy about the changes with registration.

"When I first tried to register they told me that there was a hold on my account, but they decided to let me register anyway," Smith said.

"I haven't heard of any complaints from the students about the new sys-

tem. We started registering people at 8:25 a.m. and were done by 9:15 a.m.," Janie Walton, registration coordinator, said.

Only a few students trickled in to register after 9:15 a.m. Tuesday. Numbered lists and lines of chaos did not disturb the peaceful atmosphere.

"We found this system to be more efficient and easier for the students. The list was more of a hassle," Walton said.

Reger said that there were seniors lined up on both sides of the hall waiting to register on Monday morning, but he did not see anybody waiting outside of the building.

"They looked like they were camping out; like they were waiting in line for concert tickets. Once we got started, they were all handled within an hour," Reger said. "The new system is like one stop shopping instead of showing up twice."

## University Singers premiere at Holiday Concert

Deonna Bouye  
Staff Writer

The newly formed auditioned chorale, University Singers, debuted at Avila's annual Holiday Concert on Dec. 5. Approximately 70 people witnessed this occasion, including Arts at Avila members, alumni, faculty, and students. The Avila Singers, a non-auditioned choral ensemble, consisting of students and faculty, also performed. This concert was the culminating event of the semester for the music department that provided an outlet for the University Singers to premiere.

"I'm excited about the new ensemble and equally excited about Avila Singers. I like to give a chance to everyone, on every level, who wants to sing," Amity Bryson, music department chair and conductor of both ensembles, said.

Bryson said the overall goal of the concert was to build the music department.

Holiday classics rang in the theater accompanied by non-traditional pieces including a classical piece by Rachmaninoff, a 19th century piece by Vesper as well as a piece by Moses Hogan.

"We have worked on revamping these type of spirituals in an academic setting," Bryson said. "I wanted the audience to gain a greater understanding of the music we perform. Choral music is very different, it is poetry. I wanted them to be able to enjoy quality choral music."

Sophomore Andrew Cotlar is a member of both choirs and performed at the event.

"I was thrilled to be able to present to the public what we have been working on for months. It was excit-

ing to be able to entertain an audience. It's what I love to do," Cotlar said.

Bryson reflected on the idea to create University Singers.

"It is a sign of growth in our department," Bryson said. "Some students got to a point where they were hungry and ready for a higher level of work. It requires a great deal of time and commitment. They wanted to be a part of a more competitive ensemble."

Next March the University Singers begin to tour and next May Avila Singers will perform at the Requiem.

"With the diversity of the literature, the ensemble has risen to a new level. They present the spirituality and intensity that is needed. I am very pleased with the growth in the music department and the choral ensemble this fall," Bryson said.

## SODA

Continued from p1

"Without some way to create a funding line, we're going to be limited in what we can do," Woolery said.

The organization is also looking for ways to become more visible to the student population.

"[That is] partly because there is

not a visible student group and there is no systematic way to get information to students," Caliendo said.

"Safe Zone is helping and [becoming] a student organization would help. The events also help, but it's difficult to fund them."

"Continuing to be involved and sponsor student events," Woolery said, "if we're participating in student activities on campus then students will know we exist."

The members of SODA have an

idea of where they would like the organization to go.

"I would like to see a student socially focused organization that involves faculty and staff, with a focus on education," Woolery said. "The long-term effect of SODA most immediately is better educated and informed people on campus and clear indications of a campus that is an accepting and welcoming community."

"I would like to see monthly meet-

ings with 50 people, Safe Zone signs on most doors, and members of the LGBT community feeling safe and comfortable with themselves on this campus," Caliendo said.

As SODA grows, the organization hopes to have a lasting effect on the university.

"Organizations like SODA are good for people like me that haven't been exposed to diverse communities before," sophomore Kaci Studer said.



Avila alum comes full circle at Avila

Jennifer Sexton  
Features Editor

After hearing about Avila at a Kaplan ACT seminar, Sara Maley wanted to learn more about Avila. Wanting to play softball, Maley attended All About Avila Day in November 1998.

"I wanted to play softball, but I wanted to go somewhere where I would not just be a number. I wanted people to know me by my name," Maley said.

From the moment Maley stepped on campus she felt at home. She recalls all the friendly faces that greeted her on her visit.

"I started getting really great scholarships and grants. After the scholarships added up, it was cheaper for me to come to Avila than Emporia State," Maley said.



B. Rechtiem

Sara Maley

After officially meeting Dennis Gault, softball coach, Maley knew Avila was where she wanted to go to college.

"He came up to me outside the cafeteria and said, 'Are you Sara Maley? I've been looking forward to meeting you.' Then he gave me a hug. I had never had a coach do that before. I liked how personable he was and how special he made me feel," Maley said.

Around Thanksgiving, in 1999, the softball team was hit with devastating news. Gault passed away. Maley had

played only half a season with Gault before his death.

"It didn't affect the way I felt about Avila, because I loved the school, but softball was never the same. There was just something special about him that could never be replaced," Maley said.

Maley was not only involved with softball for three years, but was a cheerleader her freshman year, homecoming queen in 2000, student ambassador, volunteer for Steer Dinner, and Editor-In-Chief of the Talon in 2002-2003.

Since graduating from Avila in May of 2003, Maley has recently taken a job in the Admissions Office at Avila. She is an Admission Representative.

"I feel I have come full circle," Maley said.

"It is terrific to have Avila grads on staff. They offer students a perspective straight from their own experiences," Paige Illum, assistant vice president of admission, said.

Illum has worked with Maley for the past month and says she is very intelligent and eager to learn. Recalling the activities Maley was involved in on campus, Illum says that allows Maley to give personal accounts and views on Avila.

"When recruiting students, you need to know a lot about a lot. Sara is willing to educate herself on what she does not know. She brings so much enthusiasm to her job," Illum said.

Assistant Director of Admission Jennifer Keeton feels that Maley brings a different aspect to her job.

"She can truly convey the Avila experience," Keeton said.

In the months following graduation Maley searched for a new career. In that time she turned down employment opportunities waiting for something to open up at Avila.

"I love it. I feel at home here, ever since my first encounter," Maley said.

Maley recommends employment at Avila for Avila graduates who feel passionate about the university.

"Yes Officer, I'm 21"

Jessica Collins  
Staff Writer

"I stepped into the courtroom for my hearing and the judge looked at me and said, 'As of today your driver's license has been revoked for six months. In six months you can pay the \$300 fine to get your license back.'" This is the scenario many fake ID holders find themselves when they are caught.

Since Sept. 11 state laws consider fraud identification especially serious. According to, USA Today, 50 percent of high school students and underage college students possess fake identification.

Many students do not realize or care about the potential seriousness of getting caught with a fake ID. Some students under 21 feel that having a fake ID is a necessity.

Lauren Johnson (name changed for security purposes) was out with a bunch of friends when her teenage life was altered.

"We were getting fake IDs. I didn't see any harm in getting one, too. I was pretty psyched. One night, we ended up at this bar. I was all excited. My ID worked. I had kind of a weird rush. I was getting pretty drunk. I put my purse down for what felt like one second and then it was gone and the police had picked it up," Johnson said.

According to Kansas and Missouri state laws, those under 21 caught with a fake ID face a punishment set by the judge in a hearing that can include fines up to \$1,000 per offense, up to six months in the County jail and revoked driver's licenses for at least six months.

Loaning a driver's license or identification card to anyone is illegal. According to www.lowefamily.org, a website for families coping with alcoholism, reports that people who loan IDs to younger siblings and friends that look like them will still suffer the same consequence as the person carrying the fake ID.

"Almost everyone I know wants one if they don't already have one. If I didn't get one, I'd feel left out when my friends go out," Avila sophomore Shelly Anderson (name changed for

security purposes) said.

Computer technology and Internet access give students a variety of choices in getting a counterfeit ID. Some of these options include altering expired driver's licenses, ordering identification software kits on the Internet, buying a friend's ID or buying ID from out of state dealers.

According to www.health.com, a

magazine's website discouraging the use of fake IDs, reports that most templates can create IDs for any state, with identical holograms or codes that can fool almost any bartender, club bouncer or sometimes even police. Fake IDs range from \$10-\$150, depending on the complexity of detail needed. Fake IDs are not the only problem. The other problem is

with underage drinkers who are willing to take the risk to get caught with a fake ID. An increase in ways to access a fake ID creates more ways to catch a person using a fake ID.

"I paid \$75 for my fake ID. I got ripped off because you could tell that the date of birth had been whited out and re-laminated," an area high school senior said.

Many people get caught when they do not know the correct date of birth on the license when asked or when the false identification says 5 feet 7 inches and the person is 6 feet 2 inches. At many clubs, licenses can be scanned to determine authenticity or falseness of the identification.

Fake IDs are dishonest and the punishments for getting caught with a fake ID could continue after a person turns 21. A person who would have finally been able to go to bars and buy alcohol will have to wait even longer to go out until they have fulfilled their punishment.

"It was totally not worth it. I won't be able to drive till September, which includes this entire summer ... I have no idea how I am going to get to work everyday ... I am going to be 21 this next year and then I would be able to go to the bars legally. I could have waited. I am angry with myself ... It was just so stupid and completely not worth it," Johnson said.

Crime and Punishment

Presenting someone else's ID to DMV.

A felony, punishable with hefty fines and jail time.

Buying an ID online.

Police monitor all such sites, so even if you try to get an ID, you could get busted.

Borrowing a sibling's license.

Punishable by going to jail, fine, and loss of license for sibling and user.

Caught with or using a fake ID in a bar or liquor store.

License suspended, fines up to \$1,000 and jail time.

Information from www.teenwire.com

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## Work, school, and motherhood make for a busy schedule

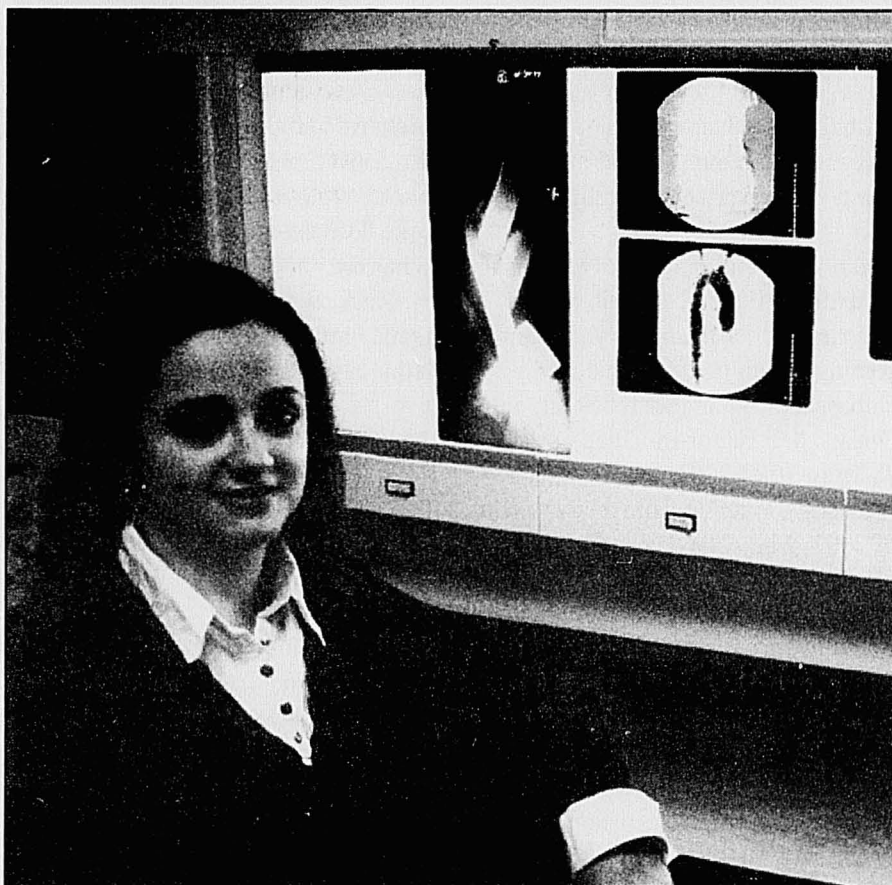
Deonna Bouye  
Staff Writer

For many college students, rolling out of bed at 7:30 a.m. to make an 8 a.m. class is a struggle. Therefore, awaking at 5 a.m. would be out of the question. For many college students, sweat pants, a T-shirt, and a quick stroke of a brush is typical morning grooming. Therefore, helping someone else get dressed would be out of the question as well. For many students, college can be a challenging time filled with obstacles. However, here on Avila's campus there are students who juggle these obstacles along with countless obligations. We call these people...single parents.

Sophomore April Barrentine is among the students on Avila's campus who is a single parent. This radiologic technology major juggles a full-time school schedule, one full-time job, one-part-time job, and a 6-year-old son, Dylan.

An average day with Barrentine is busy.

"I am up at 5 a.m., I get ready, wake everyone in my house up, make breakfast, get my son ready, and am out of the door by 7 a.m. I drop Dylan off at the baby-sitter's and start the tedious traffic battle by 7:30 a.m.. Then I get to my full-time job at 8:30 a.m. and get in a few hours before I have to go to class. Most days, I get back to work after my classes are done and finish up there," Barrentine



April Barrentine

B. Rechten

said. "At 5 p.m. it's back on the road to Lee's Summit through traffic. Every night I make dinner for everyone, (my little sister, my son, and my roommate who all live with me) try to spend quality time with my son, clean up, do laundry, give Dylan a

bath and get him to bed. If I'm lucky I can start studying at 8:30 p.m. until I fall asleep. Then I wake up and do it all over again."

Barrentine finds that her biggest obstacle is time management.

"If I get a chance to watch 30 min-

utes of television I get so excited. Things like that are a luxury for me now."

Barrentine experienced a divorce a year ago, which is the reason for her heavy load.

"I didn't have to work when I was married and truthfully, I had no skills. It was either get a dead end job or educate myself. I chose the latter."

Barrentine chose Avila for its small classes and says her adviser boosts her confidence, confidence that she needs to keep going.

"When I graduate I want to work at the new St. Luke's Hospital that they're building in Lee's Summit," Barrentine said.

It takes a great deal of motivation and focus to lead a the life that Barrentine and so many others lead. "My motivation is making a better life for my son, that's where all my drive and determination comes from," Barrentine said. "I know it will all pay off in the end."

Barrentine's son Dylan supports his mother's efforts.

"It was so exciting when I made the dean's list last year," Barrentine said. "My son came with me to the dinner and he was so proud of his mommy. When I went up to get my certificate, he shouted, 'THAT'S MY MOM UP THERE!', That brought me so much joy!"

## It is that time of year again

Jennifer Klein  
Staff Writer

Five...four...three...two...one. Happy New Year's! The time is quickly approaching and millions of people around the world are making their New Year's resolutions.

The idea of making a New Year's resolution began 4,000 years ago with the ancient Babylonians. They created a resolution in order to cleanse themselves of their past wrongs in hopes of a good and peaceful future. The most popular resolution at this time was to return borrowed farm equipment.

The date, Jan 1, was not always considered the beginning of the New Year. Ancient Egyptians celebrated their New Year when the Nile River would flood the land at the end of September. The flood would enrich the soil so a new season of planting could begin. This flooding signified a

rebirth of the land and gave hope for a new and plentiful crop.

The ancient Babylonians would celebrate the New Year on March 23 in order to kick off the next cycle of planting. Each celebration, for the Egyptians and Babylonians, represented a new birth for the people.

It was not until 46 B.C. when Roman Emperor Julius Caesar established his own calendar that the New Year changed. He declared that the year 47 B.C. was to last 445 days causing New Year's to occur on Jan. 1.

Each year millions of people create a New Year's resolution for themselves. Today, losing weight is one of the most popular New Year's resolutions.

Mitchell Anderson, assistant manager of 24 Hour Fitness, said,

"Traffic picks up exponentially during the holiday season and into the beginning of the new year. It gets kind of crazy around here." He said business tends to die down around the beginning of the summer. People either get too busy to work out anymore or they workout outside because the weather has improved.

In a survey done by the Deschutes Public Library in Oregon the top 12 New Year's resolutions are:

- ◆ Exercise
- ◆ Lose weight
- ◆ Enjoy life more
- ◆ Spend more time with friends and family
- ◆ Improve relationships
- ◆ Promise to eat healthy
- ◆ Quit a bad habit, such as smoking
- ◆ Manage finances better

- ◆ Manage stress better
- ◆ Manage time better
- ◆ Show more patriotism
- ◆ Participate in volunteer work

Many people make a resolution to better themselves in some way. Much like what the ancient Babylonians did, people tend to choose something that will make their life better, whether it be returning borrowed items, or exercising.

"My New Year's resolution is to quit smoking; it is not healthy and it costs too much," junior Amanda Boyer said.

Making a New Year's resolution is another way to leave the past behind and concentrate on making a better future.



## Favorite Places to Shop for the Holidays

Some of the *Talon* staff members gathered their top three places to shop for holiday gift giving.

### Jennifer Coates *Staff Writer*

**Barnes and Noble** - Multiple locations across Kansas City metropolitan area (my favorite-the Plaza). I usually shop for my dad there during the holidays. He always enjoys a Tom Clancy! (And I always end up buying for myself also...I am also a book nerd.)

**Galyans** - Located in the Town Center Plaza, Leawood, Kan. The best place to shop for my husband, who is a strong believer in SmartWool socks, and the need for a backpack, duffle bag, or messenger bag for every occasion.

**Target** - Multiple locations across the Kansas City area. I usually shop for various people here during the holidays, especially my good friends, who are into throw pillows, picture frames, the latest winter scarves, hats etc...My personal opinion is if Tar J does not have it, then you just do not need it.

### Matt Schmidt *Arts & Entertainment Editor*

**Streetside Records & Tapes** - Located at 4128 Broadway (KCMO). This is a great place to find independent and import releases that you cannot find at Best Buy or other chain markets.

**Vintage Stock** - 9200 Metcalf and 135 & Antioch. Good place to find basically any video game that has ever been released in America.

**The Discovery Store** - Located on the Plaza or Oak Park Mall. Lots of cool stuff and different items found here.

### Nicole Sowders *Staff Writer*

**Barnes and Nobles** - Various locations. I can find a gift for my whole family there. I can get a book for my dad. Card sets for my mom, and a CD for my little brother.

**Express** - located in most malls and Town Center Plaza. I like shopping here for my friends. I also like picking out the clothes I want to buy because I know my mom will get me a gift certificate there.

**Online Shopping** - you can find anything and everything online.

### Jennifer Sexton *Features Editor*

**White Barn Candle** - Independence Center. This candle store has many unique and quality items for any woman. It is a great place to pick up a few items for a mom, grandma, wife or girlfriend. You can't go wrong.

**Kohl's** - various locations throughout the area. A great one-stop shop. If you are a last minute shopper, this is the place for you. You can pick items from a huge selection of clothing, toys, shoes, housewares and equipment, jewelry to miscellaneous gifts.

**Ingenious Toy Store** - Summit Crossing (50 Highway & Chipman Road Lee's Summit, Mo). Great place to find innovative toys for little people that are not at Target or Wal-Mart.

### Jessica Giannola *Copy Editor*

**Mierotto's- Midwest Jewelers** - This is my absolute favorite jewelry store. Prices range from reasonable to ridiculously expensive, but if you have to shop for a sparkly fiend, this is where I suggest.

**Pier 1 Imports** - various locations. I can always find something I'd want here, be it candles, pillows, or picture frames. Perfect for the new homeowner on your list.

**Allure Salon and Day Spa** - An Aveda Salon, Allure is perfect for the one you want to spoil this holiday. From a designer cut and style to a manicure/pedicure or massage, this is the place to take your mother, sister, friend or loved one. I recommend the Allure Experience, a full day's (and over \$250) worth of being pampered by professionals.

### Diane Euston *Staff Writer*

**World Market** - located at 135<sup>th</sup> and State Line. They have an incredible selection of wine, home gifts, and gourmet foods such as pastas and specialty salsa. This is a great place to shop for the hard to shop for people. They have great household gifts for your aunt, mom, or best friend.

**M. Taylor** - located at 71<sup>st</sup> and Mission. This is a great boutique with great candles, picture frames, and specialty jewelry. When I am looking for a unique gift for family and friends I always think of M. Taylor.

**Pottery Barn** - various locations. Pottery Barn can run a bit pricey but if you dig deep enough you can find some great bargains. I got my dad a great desk clock for a very reasonable price. These are great gifts for the home and are very well made.

## Recipes and activities for the holidays

### Casey Carson *Staff Writer*

Boughs of holly, warm apple cider, and the wonderful feeling of being surrounded by family and friends- the holidays.

The winter holidays have different meanings for everyone. Some celebrate Christmas, Hanukah, Kwanzaa, or just the snow. Whatever the meaning, most agree it is time to spend with the ones you care about. Decorating homes, hosting parties, and baking sweet desserts are just a few examples of the ways people commemorate the season.

Here are five ideas for creative holiday fun; provided by [www.familycircle.com](http://www.familycircle.com).

- ♦ Turn ripe red apples into clever candleholders. Scoop out the cores with a paring knife, making sure not to cut out all the way to the bottoms. Fit taper candles inside and strike a match.

- ♦ Make keepsake gift tags anyone will treasure from pressed flowers, herbs, and seedpods gathered from your garden or the local grocer.

Arrange on parchment cards or manila tags; glue into place.

- ♦ Pick your favorite quote and script it onto a platter you can fire at a local pottery place. Decorate with stenciled motifs or freehand designs to bring out your own holiday feast or as a present to a friend.

- ♦ Proof that simple can be sensational: vines wrapped around a wire circle to form the sleekest, sparest wreath. Snowberry, ivy, holly, or euonymus will look stunning.

- ♦ A star both inside and outside - that is the story behind the magical window treatment. Using cookie cutters, snip out stars from poster board, paint silver and gold, add flecks of glitter, and suspend from lengths of fishing wire in front of window.

Many people bring out their very best around the holidays in terms of food, drinks, and decadent sweets. Here are a few ideas for easy but delicious baking.

### Creasant Sugar Cookies

1 cup butter/ margarine  
2 cups flour  
3/4 cup sour cream  
1 egg yolk  
3/4 cup sugar  
1 tsp. cinnamon  
3/4 cup chopped pecans

Cut butter into flour until mixture resembles course meal. Add sour cream and egg yolk, stir until mixture is moistened. Cover and chill several hours. Combine last three ingredients.

Divide dough into five equal portions. Roll each into 8-inch circle; sprinkle with sugar mixture. Roll up each wedge, starting at wide end and seal points. Bake on ungreased sheet;

point down at 350 degrees for 15 minutes. Makes 40 cookies.

### Old-Fashioned Gingerbread Cookies

1 cup packed brown sugar  
1/3 cup shortening  
1 1/2 cups dark molasses  
2/3 cup cold water  
7 cups all-purpose flour  
2 tsp. baking soda  
2 tsp. ground ginger  
1 tsp. ground allspice  
1 tsp. ground cinnamon  
1 tsp. ground cloves  
1/2 tsp. salt

Beat brown sugar, shortening, molasses, and water in large bowl with electric mixer on medium speed, or mix with spoon. Stir remaining ingredients. Cover and refrigerate at least two hours. Heat oven to 350 degrees. Grease cookie sheet lightly with shortening or spray.

Roll dough 1/4 inch thick on floured surface. Cut with flour gingerbread cutter. Bake 10 to 12 minutes or until no indentation remains when touched. Immediately remove from cookie sheet, cool completely about 30 minutes. Decorate with colored frosting.

### Good Luck Dessert

The Hispanic culture has a good luck recipe for the new year. They eat this on New Year's because they believe it will bring them luck in the coming year. Here are the directions for the sweet good luck charm.

3 apples  
2 cups all-purpose flour  
1/2 cup sugar  
1/2 cup cinnamon  
1 cup vegetable oil  
4 cinnamon sticks

Take apples, peel, and put peels into a pan of water. Boil until water is brown. Add flour and water from peels, mix, and make dough. Shape dough into a ball and roll out flat, like a tortilla.

Slice and boil apples with cinnamon sticks; until soft and tender. Take out, lay on a plate and add sugar/cinnamon mixture. Cool.

Put oil into large frying pan or wok; let it get very hot. Drop tortilla dough into oil. When it expands and makes bubbles use a fork to pop the bubbles so it is flatten. When both sides are brown and crispy, take out of pan. Sprinkle more cinnamon and sugar immediately after taking it out of the pan.

Lay tortilla onto platter, cover with sliced apple. Serve warm with hot chocolate.

Everyone has their own ways of celebrating the holidays whether it is traditional or incredibly offbeat. The purpose is to do what makes you and yours feel special and happy.



# Holiday

Jennifer Coates  
Staff Writer

Volunteering during the holidays is what the season is all about. Many organizations need your help to create a successful holiday season for others. Several of the local organizations are eager to accept monetary donations, but also need the gift of your time. The following is a list of a few organizations and their event(s) that participate locally in Kansas City:

## The Mayor's Christmas Tree

Located on Crown Center Square, stands as Kansas City's official Christmas tree. It's also a symbol of a citywide holiday charity, the Mayor's Christmas Tree Fund.

The Mayor's Christmas Tree has been a Kansas City tradition since 1908. Mayor Thomas Crittenton initiated the project, erecting an official city tree at City Hall and establishing a fund drive. During his term, more than 8,000 needy children were cared for by what was then the Mayor's Municipal Christmas Tree Fund.

As the years went by, the program grew and since 1973 the tree has been in Crown Center Square. The purpose of the tree remains the same however: to solicit funds to serve Kansas City's needy, elderly, and the forgotten during the holiday season. Money donated to the Mayor's Christmas Tree Fund will buy clothes and food for needy families, gifts for elderly shut-ins and hospitalized patients, parties for impoverished children and more. Each year, after the holidays, the tree is cut into Christmas ornaments available to purchase, whose proceeds benefit the Fund. For information on donations contact [www.kcmo.org](http://www.kcmo.org) for further details.

Harvesters of Kansas City  
Volunteer Opportunities. VSA.  
Help them sort and repackage donated

product in their Volunteer Sorting Area (VSA). Participants must be 6 years or older, students 15 and under need to be accompanied by an adult. Working in the VSA is a great group or family project. The VSA is open Monday-Saturday 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Tuesday and Thursday evenings until 8. An appointment is required.

Harvesters also has sorting and repackaging projects at their satellite volunteer center in Antioch Center. Hours of operation are Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. and Wednesday morning from 8 a.m. to noon.

## Freezer Saturday

Two Saturdays a month they do a mass distribution of frozen food items. Doing so enables better access to freezer items for the agencies who distribute food from Harvesters to people in need. Two volunteers are needed for the following Saturday: Dec. 20 - 7:30 a.m. — 11:30 a.m.

## Driver

If you are CDL-qualified, Harvesters could utilize your skills for food pick-up and delivery. Volunteering as little as once a week would make a huge difference.

## Driver Support

Accompany one of Harvesters' drivers on a food pick-up or delivery route. The volunteer must arrive at Harvesters at 7 a.m. and should be

able to lift approximately 30 pounds. This is an opportunity available most weekdays; the time commitment is roughly seven hours. Participants must be 18 or older.

## Buy A Bird

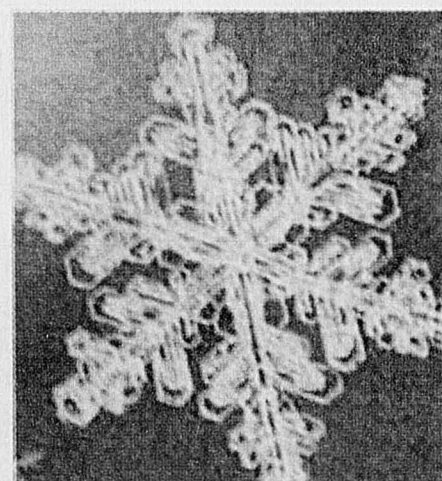
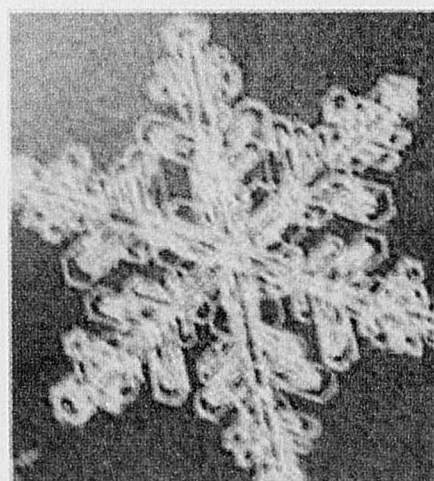
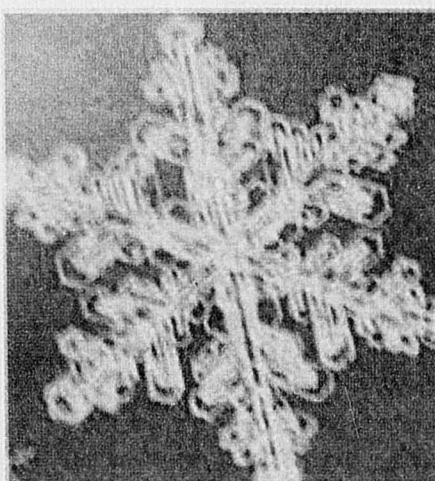
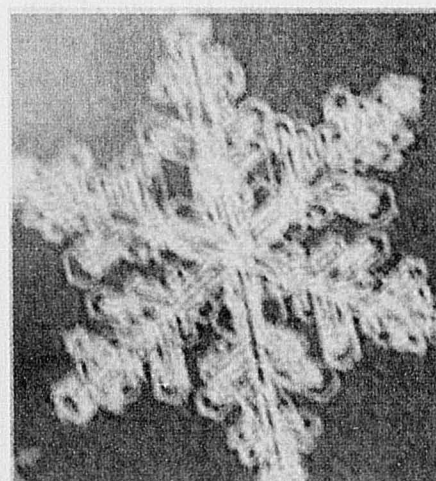
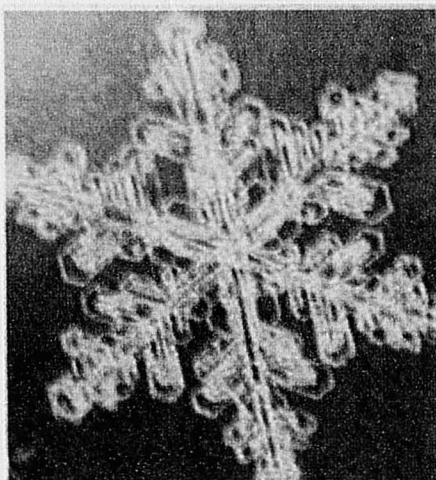
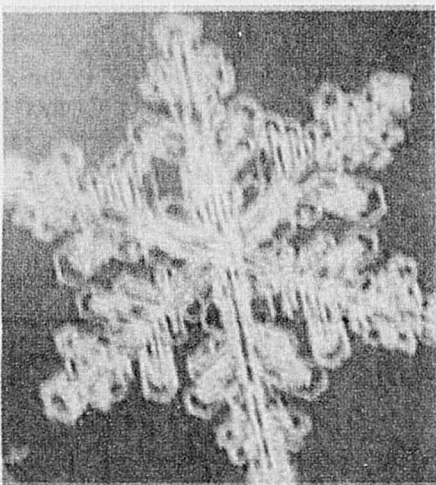
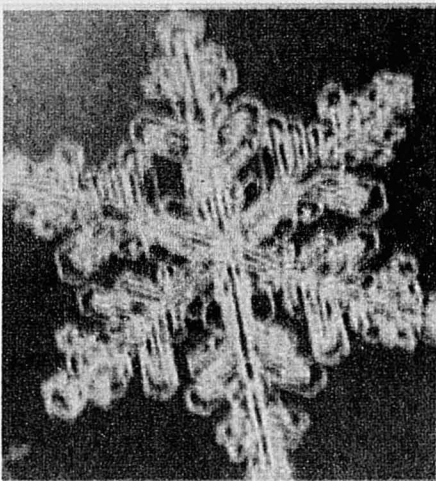
Help Harvesters provide holiday meals to those in need this season by helping with their Buy A Bird program. The program consists of selling a plush turkey for a donation of at least \$15. Proceeds from the sale of each toy bird enable Harvesters to provide a real turkey for a family in need. Volunteers are needed to staff Buy A Bird tables set up at various times in locations throughout Kansas City.

## Check Out Hunger

Volunteers are needed for this community-wide scannable coupon promotion, sponsored by the Retail Grocers Association. Volunteers are assigned individual grocery stores and are responsible for coordinating all aspects of the Check-Out Hunger initiative, including contacting the store manager, working with the store employees and replenishing materials at the store weekly. The campaign runs from Nov. 5, 2003 to Jan. 4, 2004.

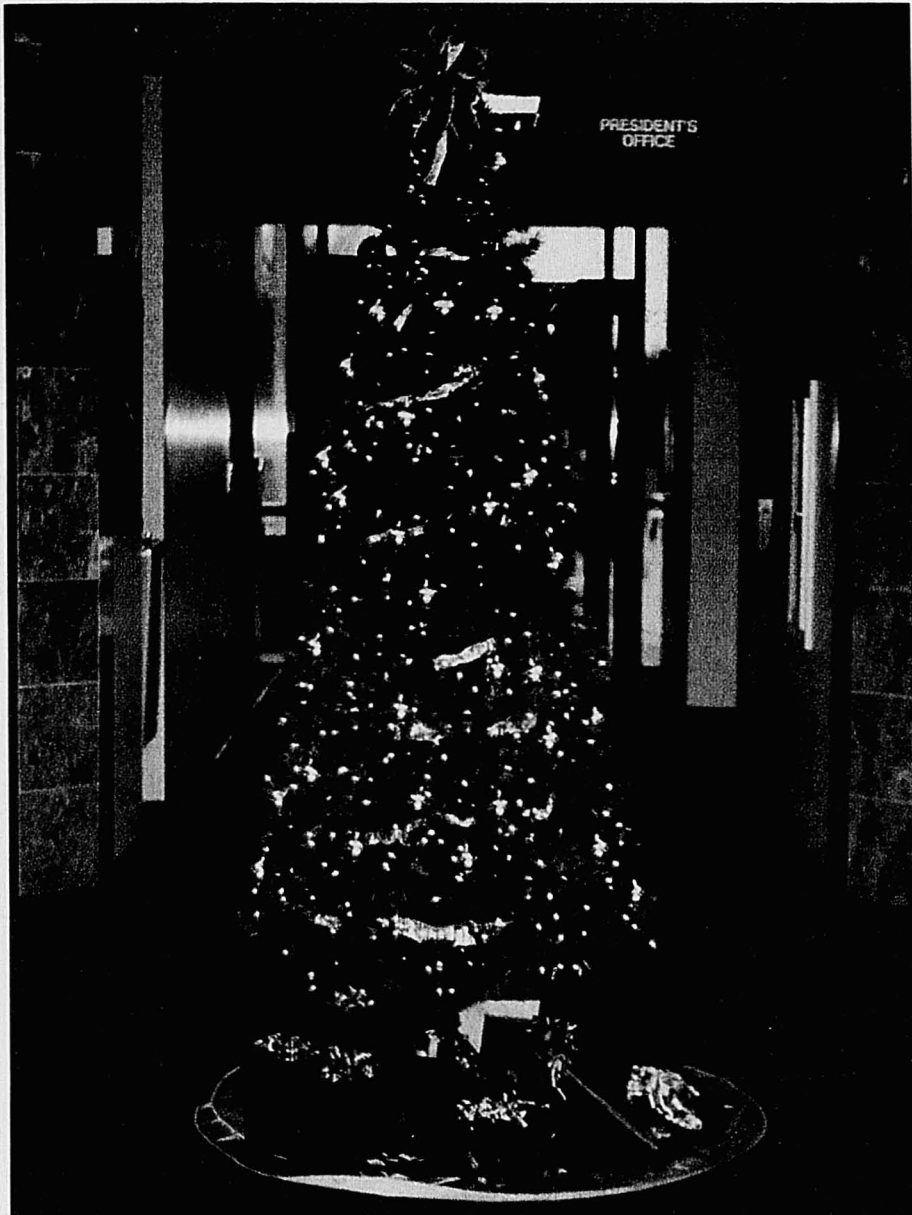
## Holiday Card Signing Party

Help Harvesters hand address hundreds of cards on Dec. 17 for those





# Volunteering



B. Rechten

Avila's holiday decorations reflect the holiday spirit.

who have purchased their holiday cards through Harvesters. Volunteers will hand address cards and envelopes to designated recipients, stuff cards and stamp for mailing. Food, holiday music and fun will be provided.

#### Shopping Floor Coordinator

Assist member agencies in picking up and loading food from Harvesters. They need help Monday and Thursday

mornings from 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Volunteers must be 18 or older and able to lift 30 pounds. Training on hand-jack use will be provided.

If you would like to get involved with any of these volunteer projects, please contact Paula Pratt at (816) 231-3173 ext. 129, or email her at [pprat@harvesters.org](mailto:pprat@harvesters.org).

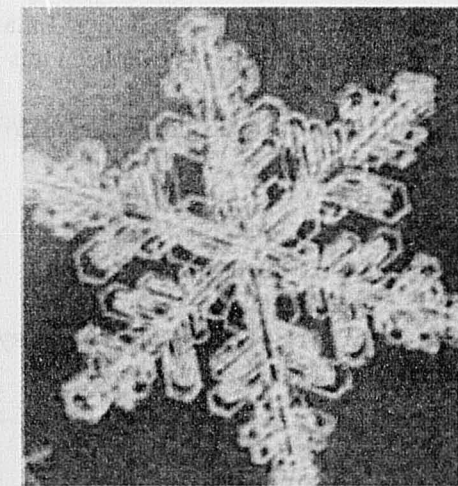
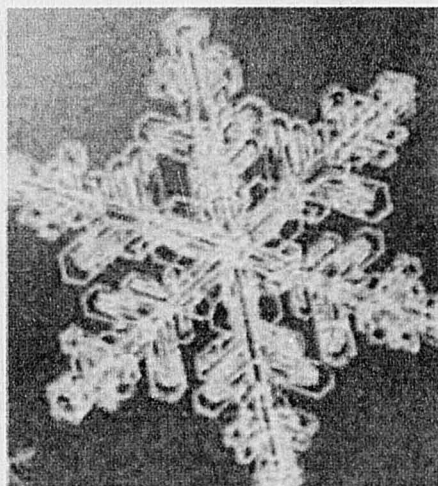
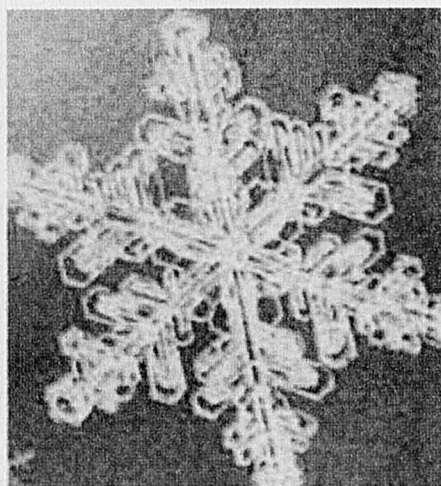
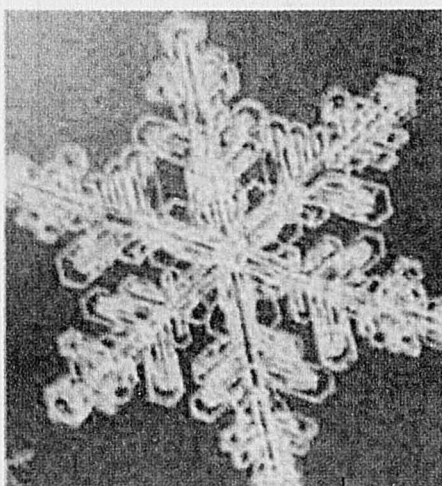
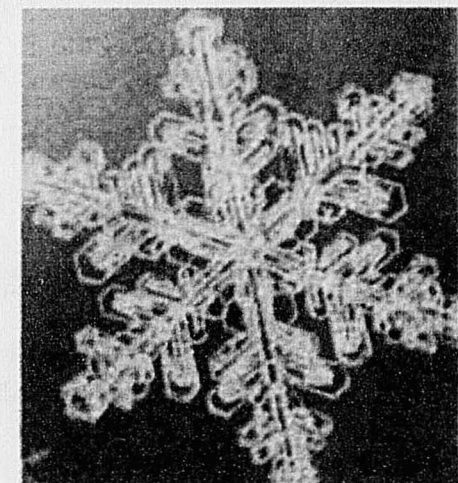
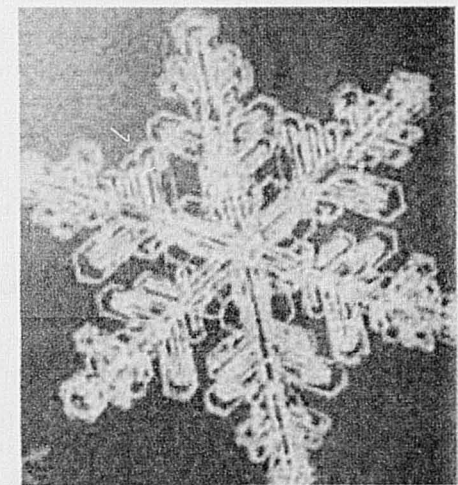
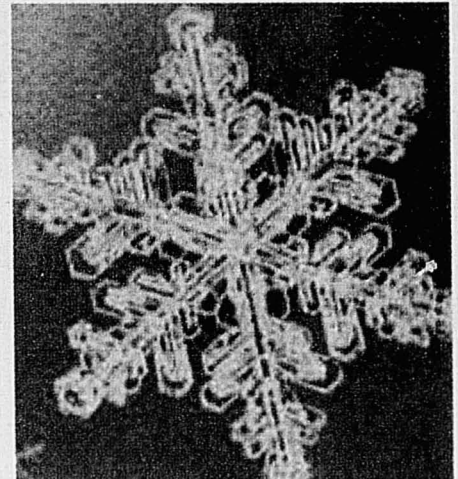
#### Salvation Army: Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteer Opportunities at the Salvation Army are as varied as the many services provided. Some needs are on-going and other placements are one-time projects or seasonal activities. In addition to the positions listed below, almost all programs can utilize volunteers in their work.

Call 816/968-0374 for more information.

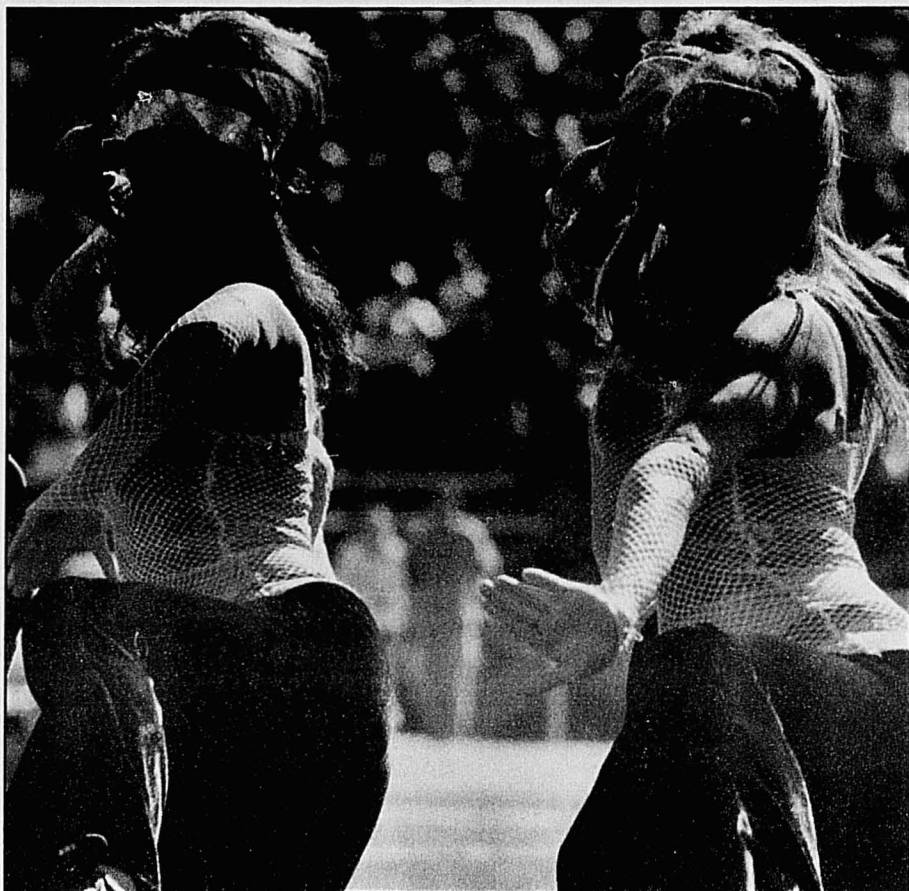
- \* Bell ringing during December: call 816/968-0371.
- \* Special holiday projects
- \* Project Warmth
- \* Angel trees in the malls
- \* Gift wrapping
- \* Holiday meal delivery
- \* Toy sorting
- \* Gift delivery
- \* Shut-In-Sunday
- \* Clerical work
- \* Disaster services
- \* Home/Hospital visitor
- \* Telephone reassurance
- \* Soup kitchen
- \* Youth programs
- \* Casework intake
- \* Honk 'n Holler
- \* Car/Van driver

Information courtesy of:  
[www.catholiccharities-kcsj.org](http://www.catholiccharities-kcsj.org)  
[www.ornaments.freesevers.com](http://www.ornaments.freesevers.com)  
[www.salarmy-mokan.org](http://www.salarmy-mokan.org)  
[www.brentpennell.com](http://www.brentpennell.com)  
[www.yahoo.com](http://www.yahoo.com)





## Dance team is on their way



Liz DiGirlando and Kim Basnight along with the Glitter Girls dance at halftime during a recent football game.

G. Mittelsteadt

**Lauren McCarthy** —  
Staff Writer

Hard routines, blistered toes, and extra practices are some of the steps the Glitter Girls will take for the big debut. The Avila Glitter Girls are going to Nationals in Orlando, Fla.

Jan. 16-18 the dance team will engage in one of the biggest events around the nation. To go to nationals, the dance team had to qualify. They finished fourth in the open division.

For the past three years, Avila participated in the National Tournament for dance. In 2001 they placed seventh, 2002 second and 2003 third.

"We have high expectations for 2004," sophomore Donna Jungman said.

The Avila dance team performs one routine that lasts two minutes. The dance routine consists of a mix of songs and focuses around one major theme: Dream.

"Our routine is difficult in technique and in style," Jungman said.

They will compete against some of

the best Division 2 schools in the Nation.

"I'm excited! It's going to be a lot of hard work to get there," sophomore Kristen Cira said.

Along with Cira and Jungman, 13 other girls will go to Florida. Out of 23 dancers, only 14 qualify to dance and one will attend as a backup. There are tryouts for the eligible 14 based on talent and poise.

The Glitter Girls will practice over Christmas Break. Unlike many other Avila students and athletes, the dance team will have one week off. They will have extended and tougher practices than normal, all in preparation for the big dance-off. They will be more focused and mentally prepared than ever before.

"We are much better prepared than previous years," Cira said.

With all the lengthened practices and mounted pressures, the Avila Glitter Girls are on their way to perform their own routine on national television.

## Men's basketball team overcomes injuries

**Lauren McCarthy** —  
Staff Writer

The basketball team has begun the battle. They have won six games in the non-conference season and expect to win many more. They are 6-5 overall.

Avila has five solid starters, a strong bench and many promising athletes. The team consists of six seniors, four juniors and 2 sophomores playing on the varsity squad.

The team has suffered many injuries and illnesses early on in the season. But even with the setbacks the team's spirit remains high.

"It's still early on in the season. Even through all the injuries and illnesses, when we get back together we are a strong enough team to pull through and find a way to win," senior guard Ryan McCarthy said.

Many fans remain positive about the team's future and think that they will be able to pull through.

"we have have not been completely health all year," Head coach Nick Totta said "Our injuries have never been this serious."

"If they can stay healthy they will do good in conference," junior Emily Eagan said.

The team will not play over Christmas break but will be back in action Jan. 3 in Ottawa, Kan. against Ottawa University. The team has a busy schedule starting in January.



M. Charmant

Chris McConnell drives hard to the basket.

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**Micro and Import Night!!**

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**Domestic Beer**  
**Specials!!**

**Friday**  
**10pm to 1am**  
**\$1.50 Selected Bottles**

**Saturday Night**  
**10pm to 1am**  
**\$1.00 Selected Draws**



## The Ross Write-up

Women's College athletic teams  
should have the same name as men's



Joel Ross  
Sports Editor

The Lady Eagles defeated the Lady Bears. That sounds like a mouthful to me. It also sounds like it underscores and adds inferiority to women's sports. The media should call women's college sports teams the same name as the men's.

When Hispanic Avila baseball players are announced to come to bat they are not called the Hispanic Eagles. When black Avila football players are introduced into the game they are not called the black Eagles.

I have no control over what fans call the team. They are entitled to do whatever they want. I believe the media and public announcers should not refer to a women's college sports team with the word lady in front of it.

Saying the word lady before the team name is unnecessary. I do not need to know which lady team beat which lady team. I need to know which team beat which team. By addressing a women's college team with lady in front of the team name, the women's team seems inferior to the men's. Male college teams are not said with men in front of the team name. By saying lady first it sounds like men own the team name and women teams need to be addressed in a different way.

Women play sports the same way men do. Men do not play harder or run faster. They are just men. Since there is no difference between how a woman and man play a sport, male and female college team names

should be addressed the same way. I would not like to be called the male college student.

"Women's sports are equal to men's sports, therefore they should not go by a different name. They don't say the men Eagles," Avila freshman and soccer player Katie Newman said.

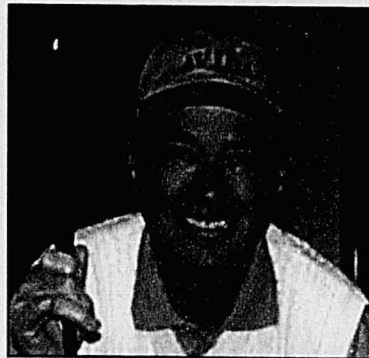
I have a simple solution: every media outlet should stop using the word lady when referring to a women's college sports team. Once the audience knows what gender is at issue, call the team their name and that's it.

For example, Metro Sports in Kansas City runs a highlight reel of five straight women's NAIA basketball games. After they mention women's basketball for the new segment of highlights, do not say women or lady again. The audience knows what sex they are.

There is no reason the media cannot begin to try this. Female athletes are hard workers as well as the men. They are human. While this is not a dramatic crisis, many college female athletes might feel better about their position in sports if their team is called the same as the men's.

As far as the sports pages in the Avila Talon, we will attempt to keep out the word lady to be used in front of a college team's name. Once it is apparent that a women's team is at issue, every team name will be addressed by its regular name without the word lady.

## Coaches' Corner



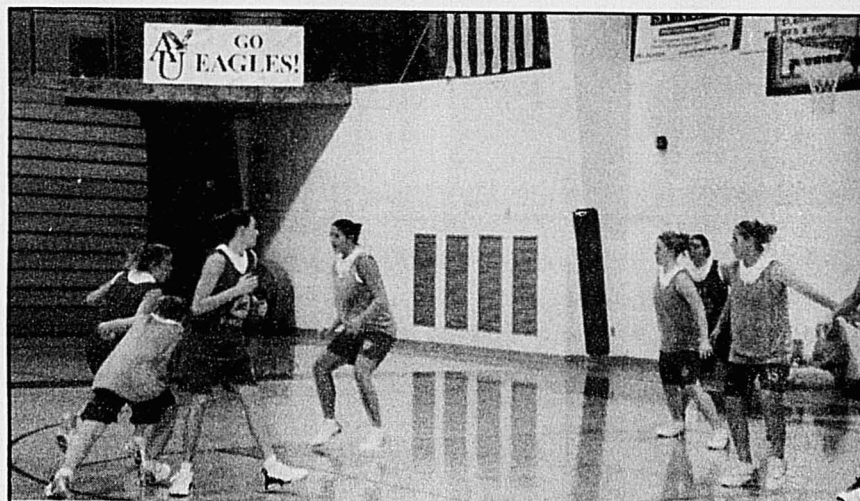
Jerry Krause, Golf

"The fall was difficult because of a few injuries. We needed all five players and usually had only two or three. We are looking forward to having five for the spring. If everyone is healthy, we should have more depth and compete better in the spring."



Greg Mittelsteadt,  
Women's Basketball

"We are playing well so far in our non-conference portion of the schedule. We are coming along well overall and our goal is to contend for a conference championship. I think we can do it."



M. Charmant

The basketball team is hard at practice in the gym. They play Park University at 5:30 p.m. Saturday Dec. 13 at Avila and will resume after Christmas break.

### FIVE GAME SCHEDULE

#### Men's Basketball 2003

Date	Opponent	Location	Time
Jan. 3	Ottawa	Ottawa, Kan.	7:30 p.m.
Jan. 5	Lindenwood	Avila	7:30 p.m.
Jan. 8	Graceland	Lamoni, Iowa	7:30 p.m.
Jan. 10	Baker	Avila	7:30 p.m.
Jan. 12	Culver-Stockton	Canton, Mo.	7:30 p.m.

#### Women's Basketball 2003

Date	Opponent	Location	Time
Dec. 13	Park	Avila	5:30 p.m.
Jan. 4	Alumni Day	Avila	3 p.m.
Jan. 5	Lindenwood	Avila	5:30 p.m.
Jan. 8	Graceland	Lamoni, Iowa	5:30 p.m.
Jan. 10	Baker	Avila	5:30 p.m.





Video Game Bonanza: *Medal of Honor: Rising Sun*Matt Schmidt  
Arts & Entertainment EditorJamie Conover  
Staff Writer

B. Rechten

## Gameplay

**Matt:** You are fast asleep in your bunk when the sirens go off. You go upstairs to see hundreds of Japanese aircraft bombing your ship. It is from this point that you are thrust into the game to defend your country against the enemy in World War II. You can choose single player or the ever-popular co-op mode, where you fight alongside your fellow soldier in the jungles of Singapore. The co-op mode is my personal favorite. It forces you to work with your teammate and coordinate your attacks with pinpoint precision. How is that single player mode treatin' ya Jamie?

**Jamie:** I have been waiting for the next MOH game ever since I played MOH: Allied Assault. EA Games (the group that produced the game) has once again outdone themselves with this title. Many people found the first MOH to be one of the smoothest first-person shooters and Rising Sun definitely lives up to this billing. The control is tight and allows such freedoms as jumping and crouching with your character. Like Allied Assault, Rising Sun is fairly linear. In other words you pretty much follow a set path to continue advancing. EA Games tried to open the game up a little more this time by giving you multiple paths to choose but in the end you wind up at the same end point. One really cool option they added is the ability to throw grenades at any time by pressing your L button. Occasionally you will get confused as to where you are in the jungle but just keep following the path and it will advance you on your mis-

sion.

## Graphics

**Matt:** The graphics in this game are stellar, especially in the jungle areas. The team at EA did a great job of texturing and shadowing the jungles. It looks even better when a fog slowly starts to roll in, making it that much harder to pick out your enemy. There are a few areas in the game where the rendering is incomplete. In one instance, we got stuck behind a bush and were looking at a completely gray background. Real smooth EA. I am just dying to hear your opinion on this, your majesty.

**Jamie:** OH NO....Matthew I am merely a peon in your video game kingdom and do not deserve the title "majesty." However, I will give my opinion on the graphics, if it is ok with my liege? MOH sports some of the best graphics on the PS2. The beginning missions at Pearl Harbor left me awe-struck. I could only sit there with my mouth gaping open. The colors and backgrounds are lush and fit the geographical region you are supposed to be fighting in. The weapons in the game are all original weapons you might find on an American soldier in WWII. It is obvious that great lengths were taken to make sure this game looked authentic.

## Extras

**Matt:** This game is LOADED with extras. After every completed mission, you are treated to a vintage newsreel from the actual war. In addition to this, you get interviews with actual soldiers that went through the war. It gives you a good perspective

on what really went on. I could go on with more, but we have a special treat in store for the Fun Factor section that I need to leave room for.

**Jamie:** Unfortunately, I completely agree with Matt about the extras. There are tons of them. I absolutely loved all the original newsreel footage. A neat extra added is called "Letters from Home." After every mission you complete you get a letter from home that talks about your family and how the war is effecting your loved ones in the United States.

## Worst Ending Ever

**Matt:** You read correctly folks. We felt the need to devote a whole section to the worst ending in video game history. There we were, having just completed a tough mission. We are in the river and one of our planes come and picks us up. Whew, onto the next mission. Wait, why are the credits scrolling up on my screen? That was the end of the game!?!?!?! Not only did we have no idea that this was the final mission, there was absolutely no finality to the game at all. We simply got picked up and we were on our merry way. The ending to this game is horrible!!!

**Jamie:** The fun factor and replay value of this game get low marks due to the seemingly abrupt ending. Up until that point though this game was amazing. It just seemed like the game was left unfinished. Calm down Matt, let's go get a slurpee from 7-11 and everything will be just fine.

Pick of the week: *Pulp Fiction*Tom Franklin  
Staff Writer

Quentin Tarantino is the kind of director that you either love or love to hate. He is back in the movie world with *Kill Bill*, his first release in six years. It is time to take a look back at the movie that really put him on the map, *Pulp Fiction*. It is my pick of the week at your local video store.

*Pulp Fiction* is a film about gangsters and the people that affect them in the course of a few days. Vincent Vega (John Travolta) and Jules Winnfield (Samuel L. Jackson) are two gangsters that are good at what they do. But when Travolta fails to recognize a miracle, as Jackson puts it, he pays the ultimate price. On a routine job to kill some small time kids that dared to cross their boss Marcellus Wallace (Ving Rhames),

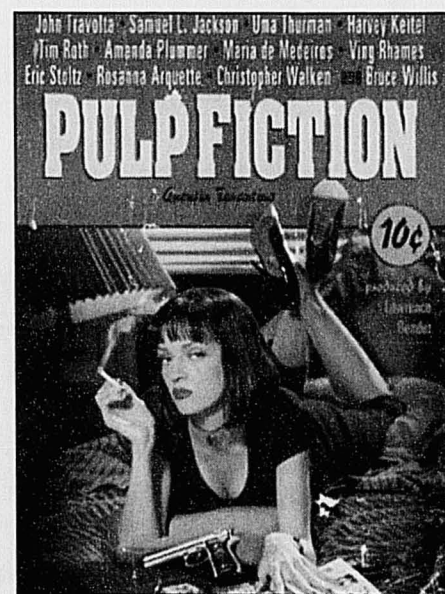
they run into trouble. After the duo takes out the little punks, a man they were unaware of charges out of the bathroom and unloads a "hand cannon" on the two. Neither of them takes a bullet and Jackson sees this as a miracle but Travolta dismisses it as a freak occurrence.

There are lots of other stars in this movie. Bruce Willis plays the aging boxer, Butch Coolidge, who has not hit his paramour and agrees to take a dive in his final fight. He does not take the dive because he had arranged with numerous bookies that he would win and when everyone knew that he would take the dive the odds went through the roof in his favor. These actions brought bad news his way that he had not anticipated.

Also starring in the film is Uma Thurman as Mia Wallace, the boss's wife, who brings more trouble for Travolta than she intends. Thurman mistakes a bag of heroine in his pocket for cocaine and overdoses.

The DVD special features are not that spectacular. The two disk set features include deleted scenes (which can be seen after the movie on the VHS version), behind the scenes footage, trailers, and the documentary *Tarantino Fiction* and not much more.

Anybody wanting to catch a good flick, but do not want to pay the \$7 at local AMC, head on down to the local video store and pick up *Pulp Fiction*.



www.imdb.com

Tarantino's *Pulp Fiction* rates high for the pick of the week.



## Restaurant review: *Buffalo Wild Wings*

**Matt Schmidt** —  
— Arts & Entertainment Editor

This week a restaurant review will be tossed in. Didn't see it coming, did you? Anyway, this issue I will be reviewing *Buffalo Wild Wings: Bar and Grill*. With two nearby locations (105th and Metcalf in Overland Park and 50 Highway and Chipman in Lee's Summit), *BWW* is a stones throw away from school. The review is based on quality of food, price, and atmosphere.

**Food:** Since this is the most important, we will start here. Let's start off by saying *BWW* doesn't offer the most unique of menus. They serve your basic bar and grill type food. Burgers, chicken strips, nachos, and other essentials. Where *BWW* stands out from the rest is their buffalo wings (as well they should, seeing as how it is their name). Not only is the wing itself delicious, but they offer an array of flavors. They have everything from Caribbean Jerk to Hot BBQ to their famous Blazin' sauce.



B. Rechten

Buffalo Wild Wings is located at 105th and Metcalf.

They aren't messing around when they say Blazin' either...they are *really, really* hot. The best time to take advantage of the wings is on Tuesday, when they offer their 30-cent wing night. It doesn't get any better than paying only \$6.49 for 24

delicious wings. Is it sad that I have the price memorized?

**Price:** This is where *BWW* will take some hits. Unless you go on Tuesday night for the wings, their menu is a little pricey. Seven bucks for a normal

burger is a little much if you ask me. By no means will *BWW* zap your entire bank account, but there are some other places you can go for a cheaper meal of basically the same quality. Please don't tell them I said that. They might take away my membership card.

**Atmosphere:** Umm...its basically a typical bar and grill. Televisions are everywhere and there are your token arcade games tossed in as well. Nothing special, but it's a cool place to go to see the big game on a big screen TV for free, outside of the food of course.

If you are looking for a place to go to grab a burger or some wings with your friends, this is the place to go. If you are looking for something different and unique, you might want to skip it.

## Upcoming events

**Matt Schmidt** —  
— Arts & Entertainment Editor

*The Lord of The Rings: The Return of the King* December 17

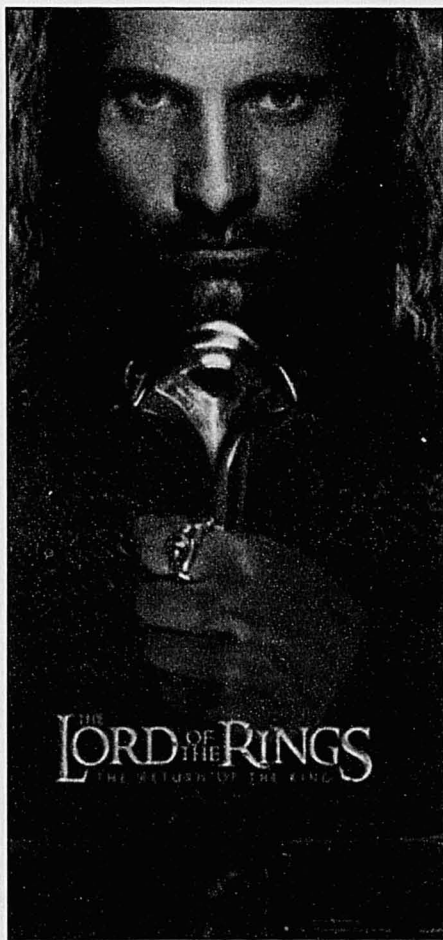
I have a feeling this may make a lot of money. As the third and final installment in the series, expect everything to be answered. Wait, didn't I say the same thing about *The Matrix*? Oh well.

Nas *Lost Tapes 2* December 16

The latest release from the second most popular rapper from the Bronx. I don't think this will outsell *The Black Album* by Jay-Z, but it should be a fine record nonetheless. Look for subsequent videos and singles to tear up the radio and television.

Christmas December 25

If you aren't one of the millions going to see *LOTR* on this day, you might want to celebrate this little known holiday with your family. I think it has something to do with giving gifts. Or is it eating a lot of turkey? Christmas is a newcomer on the holiday scene, so it's kinda hard to remember.



www.yahoo.com

Viggo Mortensen plays the character Aragorn.

## Top 10 Billboard Chart



1 Jay-Z  
*The Black Album*



6 Toby Keith  
*Shock'n Y'all*



2 No Doubt  
*The Singles 1992-2003*



7 Josh Groban  
*Closer*



3 Britney Spears  
*In The Zone*



8 G-Unit  
*Beg For Money*



4 Hilary Duff  
*Metamorphosis*



9 Korn  
*Take a Look in the Mirror*



5 Now 14  
*Various Artists*



10 Outkast  
*Speakerboxxx/The Love Below*



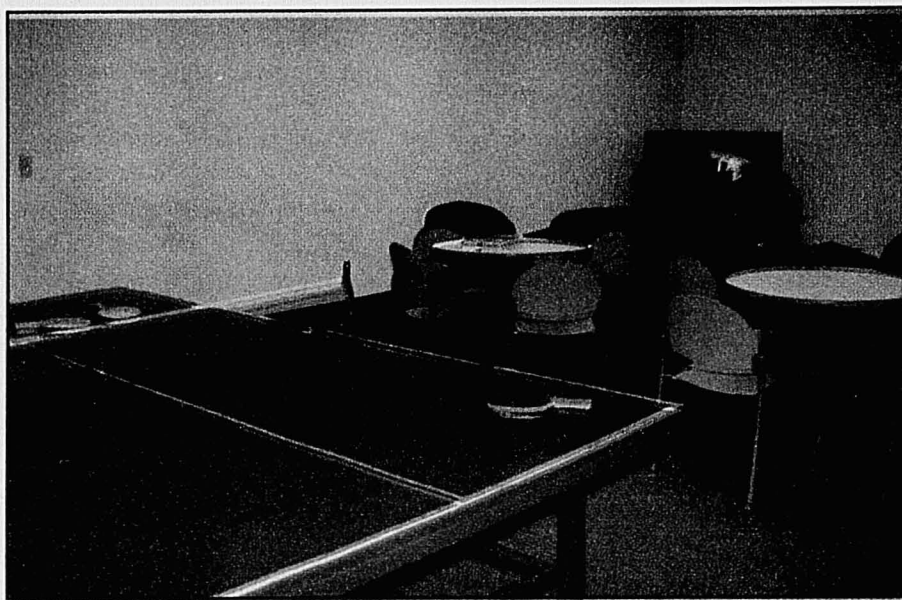
## Immaturity results in the trashing of the Eagle's Nest

**Matt Schmidt**  
— Arts & Entertainment Editor

I originally planned to make this a somewhat humorous article, but I realized that there really is not anything funny about what happened in the Eagle's Nest. It's really more sad that anything else.

Anybody who has been down there knows what I am talking about. Magazines and trash left everywhere, ping-pong balls strewn across the floor, pool cues and chalk in every corner in the room. This kind of crap is bad enough. Is it really that hard to just pick up after yourself? It is incredibly embarrassing to know that you have to share a space and a college with people who cannot clean up their own mess.

Now let's get to the truly pathetic happenings, that of downright destroying the room. I think my favorite story is of the kid who got so mad at losing at pool that he picked up a pool ball and threw it at the window by the front door, putting a large crack in the mirror. How incredibly stupid do you have to be to pull off something like this. What's worse is that the kid was walking around campus not giving a damn about what he



The Eagle's Nest is clean again, after being trashed earlier in the semester.

B. Rechtiem

did. Maybe he doesn't realize that there are CAMERAS in the room. I hope that he got caught and has to face the consequences for what he did. And maybe people in the future will not pull the same lame stunts that this kid did.

All that us common-sensed people ask is that you clean up after yourself

and show a little respect for your surroundings. I do not think that it is that tough.

For anybody that has damaged the Eagle's Nest, feel free to email me at [Talon@mail.avila.edu](mailto:Talon@mail.avila.edu). I would love to hear your feeble attempts at justifying your actions. I am in the mood for a good laugh.

## There's a party in the library

**Nicole Sowders**  
— Staff Writer

Laughing, talking, cell phones, games, friends, and studying. This is the typical atmosphere I find when I enter the library at Avila. Do students at Avila go to the library to study? At 8:30 p.m. on a Monday night, I sat in the computer lab at the computer right next to the printer underneath the clock. I heard a loud voice asking who had the queen of spades. I look up to see five students playing hearts against each other on their computers. The five students were laughing and discussing their game.

A few minutes later, a group of women piled into the lab giggling and interrupted a few students doing their homework. When the women finished saying their hellos to all of their friends in the lab, a cell phone rang. Posted in the library is a sign that states "Do not use cell phones in the library. Thanks. Library Staff." The woman answered the phone. She had a three-minute conversation. She

was going to Orlando's Night Club on Saturday night. I too have answered my cell phone in the library. I don't have a problem with students quietly having a phone conversation. I do have a problem when the whole library can hear the conversation.

A lanky tall man wearing a Yankees baseball cap started to celebrate. He won the game of hearts. The whole time I sat in the lab there was no "library etiquette." Only about six people in the lab were doing homework.

As I walked out of the lab and into the library, a group of students gathered around a table. Two books were open and no studying was taking place. I sat down two tables away from the crowd. Once again, the only action-taking place was socializing. The only action of studying were students memorizing their weekend plans. On the other side of the video

bookcases were more tables. There was a student sitting with his books open watching the large crowd. He was leaning back in his chair clinching his cell phone. At one point a woman from the large crowd came over to him and sat down across from him. She sat there for two minutes got up and went back to her study group.

I too have group work I try to get done in the library. I appreciate a library that allows students to accomplish our group work and talk louder than a whisper. I have a hard time believing that students do not know when they take advantage of this.

The only thing I ask of students when they go to the library is that they take into consideration that other people are in the library to study. Also, when there is group work there are certain rooms that can be reserved where students can talk loudly.

## the Talon

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